

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (Canceled).

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): The method as claimed in claim 16, wherein said at least divalent cation is selected from Zn^{2+} and Ca^{2+} .

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The method as claimed in claim 16, wherein the molar ratio of carboxyl groups of the monomers B to equivalents of the metal cation in the composition is in the range from 10:1 to 1:10.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The method as claimed in claim 16, wherein the monomer A is selected from the C_1 - C_{10} alkyl esters of acrylic acid, the C_1 - C_{10} alkyl esters of methacrylic acid, and vinylaromatic compounds.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): The method as claimed in claim 16, wherein the monomer B is selected from acrylic acid and methacrylic acid.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): The method as claimed in claim 16, wherein the first coating composition, based on its overall weight, contains from 10 to 50% by weight of said at least one addition polymer P.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): The method as claimed in claim 16, wherein the first coating composition per 100 parts by weight of addition polymer P contains from 5 to 300

parts by weight of at least one inorganic filler, at least one pigment, or a mixture of at least one inorganic filler and at least one pigment as component iii).

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The method as claimed in claim 16, wherein the metal component is a shaped part made of sheet metal.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): The method as claimed in claim 16, wherein the further coating composition is applied to the surface provided with the basecoat before the basecoat has dried.

Claim 10 (Original): A method as claimed in claim 9, wherein before the basecoat is dried a particulate material having an average particle size of more than 0.1 mm is applied to the wet basecoat.

Claims 11-12 (Canceled).

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): The method as claimed in claim 16, wherein the first aqueous composition is applied in an amount of from 50 to 500 g/m², calculated as nonvolatile constituents of the composition.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): The method as claimed in claim 16, wherein the first aqueous composition comprises:

- i) from 20 to 90% by weight of addition polymer P,
- ii) from 0.1 to 5% by weight of metal ions,

iii) from 2 to 25% by weight of at least one pigment and/or from 10 to 60% by weight of at least one filler, the total amount of pigment + filler not exceeding an overall amount of 75% by weight, and

iv) from 0.1 to 20% by weight, of customary auxiliaries.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): A coated metal component obtained by a method as claimed in claim 16.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): A method of coating metal components by applying a first coating composition to a surface of the component as to provide a basecoat and then applying at least one further coating composition to the surface provided with the basecoat, which comprises selecting the first coating composition from aqueous compositions, which comprise:

- i) at least one aqueous polymer dispersion comprising at least one addition polymer P which has a glass transition temperature below 0°C and contains in copolymerized form
 - from 80 to 99.5% by weight of at least one monoethylenically unsaturated, hydrophobic monomer A,
 - from 0.5 to 10% by weight of at least one monoethylenically unsaturated monomer B selected from monocarboxylic acids, dicarboxylic acid and their anhydrides, and if desired
 - from 0 to 10% by weight of one or more ethylenically unsaturated monomers C, different than the monomers A and B, the weight fractions of the monomers A, B and C adding up to 100% by weight,

and ~~which addition polymer P is prepared in the presence of at least one anionic emulsifier;~~

- ii) at least one water-soluble oxide, hydroxide, salt or complex salt of an at least divalent metal cation, and

wherein said at least one further coating composition comprises as binder at least one aqueous dispersion of an addition polymer P' having a glass transition temperature in the range from 10°C to 80°C.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): The method as claimed in claim ~~12~~ 16, wherein the addition polymer P' has a glass transition temperature in the range from 20°C to 60°C.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): The method as claimed in claim 9, wherein the basecoat contains at least 5% by weight of water, based on the dry basecoat, before the further coating composition is applied.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): The method as claimed in claim 18, wherein the basecoat contains at least 10% by weight of water, based on the dry basecoat, before the further coating composition is applied.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): The method as claimed in claim 19, wherein the basecoat contains at least 15% by weight of water, based on the dry basecoat, before the further coating composition is applied.

Claim 21 (New): The method as claimed in claim 16, wherein the addition polymer P' comprises in copolymerized form, as monoethylenically unsaturated monomers,

from 40 to 70% by weight of at least one monomer selected from the group consisting of vinylaromatic monomers and the C₁-C₄ alkyl esters of methacrylic acid,

from 30 to 60% by weight of at least one acrylic ester of a linear or branched C₁-C₁₀ alkanol,

from 0.1 to 5% by weight of acrylic acid or methacrylic acid, and

from 0 to 3% by weight of acrylamide or methacrylamide.

Claim 22 (New): The method as claimed in claim 21, wherein the addition polymer P' comprises in copolymerized form, as monoethylenically unsaturated monomers,

from 40 to 70% by weight of styrene,

from 30 to 60% by weight of at least one of ethyl acrylate, n-butyl acrylate and 2-ethylhexyl acrylate,

from 0.5 to 2.5% by weight of acrylic acid or methacrylic acid, and

from 0.1 to 3% by weight of acrylamide or methacrylamide.

Claim 23 (New): The method as claimed in claim 22, wherein at least some of the styrene has been replaced with methyl methacrylate.

Claim 24 (New): The method as claimed in claim 16, wherein the addition polymer P' comprises in copolymerized form, as monoethylenically unsaturated monomers,

from 70 to 99.9% by weight of n-butyl methacrylate, and

from 0.1 to 10% by weight of acrylic acid or methacrylic acid.

Claim 25 (New): The method as claimed in claim 16, wherein the addition polymer P' comprises in copolymerized form, as monoethylenically unsaturated monomers,

from 80 to 99.8% by weight of at least one monomer selected from the group consisting of esters of acrylic acid with C₁-C₁₂ alkanols, esters of methacrylic acid with C₁-C₈ alkanols, and monovinylaromatics,

from 0.1 to 19.9% by weight of at least one monomer selected from the group consisting of α,β -ethylenically unsaturated C₃-C₆ monocarboxylic and dicarboxylic acids, and the amides and N-alkyl amides of these carboxylic acids,

from 0.1 to 2% by weight of at least one monomer selected from the group consisting of (i) esters of acrylic acid or methacrylic acid with linear or branched C₃-C₆ alkenols, cyclic C₅-C₇ alkenols, and polycyclic C₇ to C₁₂ alkenols, and (ii) diesters of aliphatic or cycloaliphatic diols with at least one of acrylic acid and methacrylic acid, and

from 0 to 5% by weight of a monomer containing a keto group,

wherein the overall amount of monomers which carry free acid groups, based on the overall amount of all copolymerized monomers, is less than 5% by weight.

DISCUSSION OF THE AMENDMENT

Claim 16 has been amended by incorporating the subject matter of Claims 11 and 12 therein; Claims 11 and 12 have been cancelled. Claim 16 has been further amended by deleting that the addition polymer P is prepared in the presence of at least one anionic emulsifier. Claim 17 has been amended to depend on Claim 16.

New Claims 21-25 have been added to claim preferred embodiments for addition polymer P', as supported in the specification at page 19, line 26 through page 20, last line.

No new matter has been added by the above amendment. Claims 2-25 are now pending in the application.